

IDAHO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

February 24, 2010 – Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

Council Chair Con Paulos called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. and welcomed everyone. He noted that B.J. Swanson and Kara Besst were attending a Gritman Board meeting and that Dr. Tingey would not be available. Chair Paulos issued a special welcome to Dr. Linda Clark, Superintendent of Idaho's largest school district in Meridian and a new member of the council. Chair Paulos also introduced Dr. Raymond Grosshans serving as an alternate for Richard Holman from the Idaho National Laboratory.

Agenda Review

Chair Paulos reviewed the agenda. No changes were requested.

Chair's Report

Chair Paulos shared a map of the United States which showed how dramatically employment has changed over the last couple of years. He reminded the council of the serious business of getting people back to work and helping our businesses succeed.

Consent Agenda

Chair Paulos continued with the consent agenda which includes the following issues:

- Minutes of the November 5, 2009 Council Meeting
- Transmittal #1 Eligible Training Provider List
- Transmittal #2 Additional Community Service Funds for Unemployed Older Idahoans
- Transmittal #3 Request for Use of the Special Administration Fund
- Transmittal #4 WIA Service Policies.

Chair Paulos accepted a motion by Randy Shroll, seconded by Kim Toryanski to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2009 Council Meeting; and the minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

Chair Paulos accepted a motion by Shirley McFaddan, seconded by Betty Kerr to approve Transmittal #1; and Transmittal #1 was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Chair Paulos accepted a motion by Cindy Hedge, seconded by Tom Hally to approve Transmittal #2; and Transmittal #2 was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Chair Paulos accepted a motion by John Currin, seconded by Jim Schmidt to approve Transmittal #3; and Transmittal #3 was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Chair Paulos accepted a motion by Jim Schmidt, seconded by Betty Kerr to approve Transmittal #4; and Transmittal #4 was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Economic Update

Chair Paulos introduced Idaho Department of Labor Chief Research Officer Bob Uhlenkott to present an economic update. Mr. Uhlenkott thanked the council for their leadership, guidance and research ideas in connection with the informational grant this year. Mr. Uhlenkott showed the power point presentation on the General Economic Update. After much discussion on jobs and education, Mr. Uhlenkott acknowledged that healthcare jobs are still number one, followed by high tech occupations; and further stated that construction jobs lost during this recession have put a dent in the economy.

Public Education

Chair Paulos welcomed Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna to share how education has been affected by the current economy. Mr. Luna acknowledged that schools, students and families are struggling. The department faces budget cuts for a second year; last year 65 million dollars were cut and this year 120 to 140 million dollars would be cut from the K-12 education budget.

Superintendent Luna stated that the department will focus on how to move forward with fewer dollars and increase higher student achievement by maintaining the student/teacher contact time and programs that have demonstrated a positive influence and also preserve the math and reading initiatives.

Superintendent Luna further stated that there is a definite link between a high quality education system and a growing robust economy. It takes a growing robust economy with a significant tax base to fund a high quality education system and a high quality education system is needed for a skilled workforce to grow a robust economy.

Discussion followed and revolved around the following issues:

- Need for math mediation at universities
- Department office has reduced costs and provided efficiencies
- Consolidation of school districts (Idaho has more districts than Nevada, Utah and Wyoming combined)
- High school graduation requirements
- Charter schools

State Board of Education

Chair Paulos introduced Idaho State Board of Education representative Allison McClintick who gave a brief state board legislative update.

Chair Paulos called upon Idaho State Board of Education Executive Director Dr. Mike Rush who stated that there is a serious decline in students going on to post secondary education in the United States. The state board is concerned and focusing on reversing that trend. Dr. Mike Rush also reported that the initiatives to restructure the board have been implemented which changes the decision making level and the scope of their work.

Legislative Update

Chair Paulos introduced Idaho Department of Labor Communications Manager Bob Fick to present a legislative update.

Mr. Fick discussed the extension problems for the 60,000 claimants who are collecting unemployment and reported on the six department bills before the Idaho Legislature:

- Merger of the Human Rights Commission with the Idaho Department of Labor
- Contributions to the department for the Idaho Youth Corps
- Technical changes in unemployment insurance that allows the Director to negotiate penalties and fines in fraud cases
- Appropriation of funds for unemployment insurance
- Tax credit for employers with claimants in training
- Delay time for workers comp benefits

Idaho Human Rights Commission

Chair Paulos invited Idaho Department of Labor Director Roger Madsen to introduce Idaho Human Rights Commission Director Pamela Parks. Director Madsen stated that this summer Ms. Parks had suggested the plan to partner with the department resulting in the bill before the legislature, based on a four year commitment and includes cost saving support from the IT and human resources departments. Director Madsen further stated that the commission's independence would be protected.

Project 60

Chair Paulos called upon Governor Otter's Communications Director Mark Warbis to share news on the Governor's Project 60 initiative. Mr. Warbis passed out Governor Otter's report on Project 60 which states that it will take everyone pulling together, applying energy, experience and creativity to grow Idaho's economy and make a difference; and urges everyone to become a partner in Project 60.

Mr. Warbis discussed the F-35 campaign and said that the governor is actively working to promote the F-35 fighter planes training and operations bases to come to Idaho. The final decision will be made in the spring of 2011.

The 2009 Governor's Innovation Summit final report was handed out and is available electronically: [2009 Governor's Innovation Summit Final Report](#). Mr. Warbis also announced that the Governor's Small Business Summit will take place April 13th at Boise State University for a half day listening session involving small business owners with less than fifty employees.

Labor Market Information

Chair Paulos welcomed Idaho Department of Labor Research Analyst Principal Sara Scudder to introduce her team members and share their latest research findings with the council.

The [2009 Idaho Fringe Benefits Survey](#) was presented by Research Analyst Jennifer Quintero and the [LMI Improvement Grant](#) update was given by Research Analyst Cheryl Russell.

Luncheon – Legislative Proposals for Job Creation and Preparation

The Honorable John Rusche, Minority Leader and the Honorable Raul Labrador representing the Majority joined the council for lunch and a discussion on current legislative issues.

Expanding Information and Access to Postsecondary Education

Chair Paulos introduced a panel consisting of State Board of Education Student Affairs Program Manager Dana Kelly, J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation Executive Director Jamie MacMillan and Idaho Division of Professional Technical Education Administrator Dr. Ann Stephens.

Ms. Kelly stated that the College Access Grant provides for:

- Scholarships
- Post secondary awareness
- Dual credit programs for high school and college
- “Find your Path” website

Ms. Kelly also reported about the FAFSA statewide day which is designed to help parents and students fill out federal college support forms.

J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation Director Jamie MacMillan reported on the public service announcement PSA sponsored by the Albertson Foundation and also made a presentation on the Idaho Go On campaign which is designed to encourage students to “go on” to postsecondary education.

Idaho Division of Professional Technical Education Administrator Dr. Ann Stephens stated that the mission of Professional Technical Education is to provide youth and adults with technical skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for success in the workforce. Dr. Stephens made a presentation entitled Professional-Technical Education in Idaho which included a “Roadmap for Professional Technical Careers”. Dr. Stephens also showed a short video clip PSA made by Capital High School students to promote the Professional Technical Education programs.

Chair Paulos thanked the panel for sharing and enlightening the council.

The next panel was introduced by Chair Paulos and shared that each had significant success with students “career fairs” which provided the students with the opportunity to explore career and education alternatives.

Idaho Department of Labor Workforce Consultant Chet Jeppesen from the Mini-Cassia local office discussed the Mini-Cassia Career Fair which focused on health care occupations.

Idaho Department of Labor Salmon Manager Merry Logan informed the council about the Salmon Career Expo which attracted more than 600 students from remote areas of the state and fifty two exhibitors by utilizing rural outreach partnerships.

Idaho Department of Labor Region IV Director for the Workforce Development Alliance Brent Tolman and Construction Coordinator for the College of Southern Idaho Cyndie Woods presented “Heavy Metal and Cashing In” which showcased the career fair in Magic Valley. This project utilized the WIRED grant and emphasized construction and manufacturing careers.

Chair Paulos introduced Community Transportation Association of Idaho Executive Director Heather Wheeler who shared background on the organizations mission to improve access to alternative transportation options across the state. Ms. Wheeler stated that the Community

Transportation Association of Idaho is a non-profit membership association dedicated to supporting, coordinating and promoting mobility in Idaho. Ms. Wheeler further introduced the organization through a presentation called the Community Transportation Association of Idaho.

Idaho Depart of Correction

Chair Paulos introduced Idaho Department of Correction Director of Education Gail Cushman to report to the council on the department's budget update and education initiatives (Budget Update and Education Briefing Sheet). Ms. Cushman also spoke about "why education pays" and showed a presentation entitled Idaho Department of Correction.

Idaho Department of Correction Vocational Manager Dr. Mary Ellen Nourse spoke about training offenders to enter the workforce and the new programs (heavy equipment training and firefighting and culinary arts apprenticeships) that are currently being implemented by the department. An offender was introduced and talked about the benefits of the culinary arts program.

Department of Labor Initiatives

Idaho Department of Labor Employment and Training Administrator Dwight Johnson gave a quick update on the success of last year's WIA Summer Youth Employment Program and told of Governor Otter's interest to reach out to private and governmental entities to establish partnerships to provide employment opportunities in 2010 for low-income, high risk youth.

Transmittal #7 – ARRA 15% Funds and the Idaho Youth Corps

Mr. Johnson requested that the council shift remaining funds from ARRA 15% discretionary funds to support the Idaho Youth Corps.

Chair Paulos accepted a motion by Dave Whaley, seconded by Linda Clark to use the Governor's ARRA 15% discretionary funds for summer youth work experience opportunities; and Transmittal #7 was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Rural Conference Update

Chair Paulos introduced Idaho Department of Labor Deputy Director Roy Valdez who updated the council on the Rural Conference planned to be held at The Coeur D'Alene on May 4 -6, 2010. The conference's agenda includes workforce, business, economic development and education leaders and experts to address strategies to help rural communities recover and thrive in this current economy. It was suggested that the Workforce Development Council meet in connection with the Rural Conference on Monday, May 3rd.

Council member John Currin commented on the great job that the Idaho Department of Labor is doing under difficult circumstances and suggested a letter from the council be written to commend the department on a job well done.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Further Business

Chair Paulos stated that the next council meeting will be Monday, May 3 beginning at 1 p.m. at The Coeur d'Alene in Coeur d'Alene Idaho. Information on rooms and schedule will be provided to members at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Attendance

Members:

Dick Armstrong (absent)	Shirley McFaddan
Jerry Beck	Jan Nielsen
Kara Besst (absent)	Kirby Ortiz
Linda Clark	Con Paulos
John Currin	Brent Reinke
Randy Shroll for Don	Mike Rush
Dietrich	Doug Sayer
Tom Hally	Jim Schmidt
Cindy Hedge	Donald Smith
Raymond Grosshans for	B.J. Swanson (absent)
Richard Holman	Kent Tingey (absent)
Betty Kerr	Kim Toryanski
Alex LaBeau	Dave Whaley
Tom Luna	David Yoder (absent)
Roger Madsen	

Guests:

Melinda Adams	Chet Jeppesen	Jerry Riley
Rico Barrera	Dwight Johnson	Kristyn Roan
Terry Butikofer	Robert Kabel	Cheryl Russell
Cheryl Brush	Dana Kelly	Sara Scudder
Leandra Burns	Dale Langford	Diane Severine
John Cantrell	Merry Logan	Sue Simmons
Sue Cook	Jesse Maclure	Georgia Smith
Gail Cushman	Jamie MacMillan	Brian Sporleder
Christine Dolan	Allison McClintick	Ann Stephens
Robin Dyck	Denise McDonald	Brent Tolman
Clete Edmunson	Craig Nebeker	Bob Uhlenkott
Cheryl Engel	Mike Nelson	Roy Valdez
Jay Engstrom	Pat Nelson	John VanDyke
Bob Fick	Nancy Ness	Nancy Walker
Nanna Hanchett	Mary Ellen Nourse	Mark Warbis
Gena Huntsinger	Carl Powell	Genie Sue Weppner
	Jennifer Quintero	Heather Wheeler
	Doug Raper	Cindy Woods